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a1 a rise for interconnecting said bottom landing support to said top landing support wherein said rise includes at least one module wherein the module comprises a steel sheet covering an escalator machine, said steel sheet presenting a continuous planar exterior surface.

q2 14. (Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the steel sheet module is welded to other portions of the rise along edges of said steel sheet such that said module completely encloses the escalator machine.

q3 19. (New) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:

a bottom landing;

a top landing; and

a rise for interconnecting said bottom and top landings, said rise comprising a plurality of support sub-modules formed from stamped steel sections wherein one of said support sub-modules includes a steel plate for enclosing an escalator drive machine.

20. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said steel plate includes a first edge attached to a first support sub-module and a second edge attached to a second support sub-module wherein said second edge is laterally spaced from said first edge such that said steel plate presents an unbroken exterior surface extending from said first edge to said second edge.

21. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein said steel plate completely encloses the escalator drive machine within said rise.

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22. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein said steel plate is welded along said first and second edges to connect said steel plate to said first and second sub-modules.

23. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein each of said support sub-modules is attached to adjacent support sub-modules forming a rigid framework for completely supporting said top landing, said bottom landing, and said rise.

a3 24. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein said support sub-modules other than said steel plate each comprise a single piece stamping having a U-shape with a horizontal base portion and a pair of vertical side portions and including a plurality of attachment plates for securing one support sub-module to the next to form said rise.

25. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein said support sub-modules other than said steel plate are each comprised of a plurality of stampings including a single bottom piece and a pair of side pieces welded to said bottom piece to form a U-shape; and including a plurality of attachment plates for securing each of said support sub-modules to adjacent support sub-modules.

26. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein said support sub-modules other than said steel plate are each comprised of a plurality of stamped sections including a first stamping having a generally vertical body portion with an angled upper edge and an angled lower edge and

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a³ a second stamping having a generally vertical body portion with an angled upper edge and an angled lower edge, said first and second stampings being joined together such that said angled upper edges extend in opposing directions from each other to form an upper channel and said angled lower edges extending in opposing directions from each other to form a lower channel.
